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1959

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

Urban Sanitary Authority

of

EAST DERHAM

Norfolk





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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A.B. GUIID, MB., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

C.McD. O'DONNELL, M.B.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Waterworks Superintendent

R. R. TYE.

EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1959

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Wright and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The estimated mid-year population for 1959 was 6,850, an increase of 50 over that of the preceding year. It is worth recalling that the estimated population in 1945 was 5,721.

VITAL STATISTICS

93 live births, of which 4 were illegitimate, were registered during the year and there were 57 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate, 13.58, was slightly higher than last year (13.07) and again much lower than the England and Wales rate of 16.5. The illegitimate live births accounted for 4.3% of the total live births.

There were no still births during the year.

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the national to the local fertility index, was 1.00.

The number of deaths, 57, was an all-time low record for the district and this despite the fact that 9 male deaths were due to coronary disease whereas last year only one male death was due to this cause. This gave a death rate of 8.32 whilst that for England and Wales was 11.6.

The deaths comparability factor was 0.88.

There were 2 infant deaths, both legitimate, under 1 week of age, giving an infant mortality, and also neo-natal mortality rate of 21.5. The England and Wales infant mortality rate was 22.2. The causes of death were (1) cerebral birth injury (2) (a) intra-cranial haemorrhage (b) haemorrhagic disease of new-born.

No maternal deaths occurred during the year.

Pneumonia was the only infectious disease to cause any deaths - in this case 4 and all due to broncho pneumonia in old people.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The year under review was characterised by the low incidence of notifiable infectious disease.

For the first time no cases of whooping cough were notified. This disease is at present mild in character and has been much modified by immunisation in infancy.

The single case of food poisoning was due to *Salmonella typhimurium* infection and the source was not traced.

The following tables give (a) the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and (b) the age distribution.

Disease	1959	1958	1957	1956
Scarlet fever	5	3	4	38
Erysipelas	1	--	1	--
Measles	10	33	273	1
Whooping cough	--	2	46	4
Pneumonia	4	8	17	18
Poliomyelitis	--	--	2	--
Dysentery	1	--	1	7
Food poisoning	1	--	2	3
Puerperal pyrexia	--	2	1	1
Infectious hepatitis	1	--	--	--
Total	23	48	347	72

Disease	Age Groups											
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-
Scarlet fever	--	--	--	--	--	3	2	--	--	--	--	--
Measles	1	--	--	1	2	4	2	--	--	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	2	--	1	--
Food poisoning	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dysentery	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
Infectious hepatitis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Erysipelas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Total	1	--	--	1	2	9	4	1	2	--	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 6 cases were added to the register; four were inward transfers and two of these had previously lived in Dereham.

The diagnosis of tuberculosis was not substantiated in one of the remaining two local cases. The table shows that no new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year - the first occasion this has happened.

It is interesting to look back to the year 1949 when 10 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were added to the register.

This marked change in the tuberculosis situation is generally applicable throughout the whole of the country.

The distribution of these five cases by age and sex is :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	1	-
15 - 25	-	1(a)	-	1(a)
25 - 35	1(a)	1(a)	-	-
	1(a)	2(a)	1	1

(a) denotes an inward transfer.

The numbers remaining on the register were :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>Grand Total</u>
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.58	20	12	32	2	3	5	37
31.12.59	19	12	31	3	4	7	38

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1959 are given below with the data for East Dereham in brackets for purposes of comparison.

Formal notifications.

<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>
104 (0)	0.27 (0)	12 (1)	0.031 (0.15)

Mortality figures for the same period were :-

<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Case Rate</u>
18 (0)	0.05 (0)	5 (0)	0.01 (0)

B.C.G. Vaccination.

With the decreasing demands of the polio vaccination campaign it was possible to resume this valuable protective measure in schools in my district, and the scope was extended to children aged 13 years.

The work done was as follows :-

Number skin tested	244
Number found positive	71
Number found negative	173
Number vaccinated	156

Cancer of the Lung.

Two deaths were due to this cause this year, both males aged 69 years and 73 years respectively.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General :-

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3	6
Coronary disease, angina	9	3	12
Other heart disease	4	5	9
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	4	5
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
Other accidents	-	1	1
	31	26	57

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population (estimated mid 1959)	6,850
Rateable value	£70,838
Estimated product of a penny rate	£278

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General :-

	East Dereham	England & Wales
	1959	1958

	Males	Females	Total
--	-------	---------	-------

LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate	50	39	89
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	52	41	93

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	13.58	13.07	16.5
--	-------	-------	------

DEATHS (All ages)

31 26 57

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

(Average age of death - 71) 8.32 9.98 11.6

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year).

Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	1	2

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 21.5 11.2 22.2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer

Diphtheria Alone

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	-	-	-	-	-	35	1	36
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	96	87	183
							Total	219

Diphtheria & Whooping Cough

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	26
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
							Total	27

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	29	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	37

The general practice now is to use triple antigen in infants and young children.

There has been an appreciable demand for protection against tetanus as the following table will show.

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	1	1	7	3	1	8	7	66	94
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2

From the above it will be evident that some of the leeway in the immunisation scheme, resulting from the polio vaccination campaign, has been made up.

VACCINATIONS

	Under 1	1-	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	60	2	2	-	2	66
Revaccination	-	-	1	-	8	9

Although the total number of vaccinations (75) is slightly lower than last year (89), it is very gratifying to note the increased numbers of infants vaccinated (60), - $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of them in their first year of life.

POLIO VACCINATION

Towards the end of 1958 the scheme was extended to include the 15-25 years age group - in 1959 a further extension up to the age of 40 was made. It must be stated that the response in these age groups has been poor, and it would need the death of another well known sporting personality to create a demand for vaccination.

Vaccination in the younger age groups proceeded steadily and the next tables show the situation at the end of the year for East Dereham and Mitford & Launditch R.D.C.

The following had received two injections :-

Expectant Mothers	G.P's & Families	Hospital Staff	Total
1959 - 43 1942 - 33	257	12	17
5,090	1,235		6,611

The following had received three injections :-

Expectant Mothers	G.P's & Families	Hospital Staff	Total
1959 - 55 1954 - 43 1942 - 33	163	7	16
891	3,330		4,933

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	46	68	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	4	20	-	-
Total	55	94	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	<u>Referred to H.M.</u>	<u>by H.M.</u>	<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted.</u>
<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Inspector.</u>	<u>Inspector.</u>
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:			
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

HOUSING

The number of houses erected in 1959 was :-

- (1) By the Council - 20
- (2) By private enterprise - 48

This brings the number of houses built by the Council in the post-war period up to 409.

Approximately half of the houses built by private enterprise were for elderly people in the grounds of Quebec Hall.

Closing orders were made on 9 houses bringing the total dealt with in this manner up to 65.

The number of applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year was 137, with an additional 93 on the waiting list for old persons bungalows.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Local Health Services under Part III

Domestic Help Service

47 occasional home helps were employed during the year and 20 cases were assisted in East Dereham.

Mental Health - Administration

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge.

21 patients were admitted to mental hospitals, 1 being certified, 19 voluntary and 1 informal - an implementation of the new Mental Health Act before this came into operation. 29 after care visits were made.

1 patient was admitted to a Mental Deficiency Hospital.

Mental Defectives

17 mental defectives were visited and reported on periodically. 4 of these now attend full time at the Occupation Centre at Sproxton, and 1 attends the Social Club for adolescent and adult cases commenced during the year and meeting at the Local Health Office.

Old People's Clubs

The two old people's clubs continue to function in Dereham and Toftwood, with a combined membership of about 200.

Old People's Homes

13 elderly people were admitted to Part III accommodation.

Infant Welfare Centre

This was held twice a month at the Local Health Office, and attendances were satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases were dealt with under Section 47 of this Act.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Thirteen water samples from sources other than the town mains were examined during the year by the Public Health Laboratory. Six from bore holes were reported as being satisfactory, seven, from shallow wells, unsatisfactory. One of the wells has been abandoned and the four cottages it supplied have been connected to the main water supply.

Many properties in the Toftwood area were connected to the main water supply when the houses were put on to the main sewer. The wells now remaining in the area are few.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The day to day operation of the disposal works was greatly facilitated by a dry summer. Settling tanks and humus tanks were cleansed regularly

and sludge drying presented no problems.

Stage II of the works extension has been designed by the Council's Consulting Engineers, and it is hoped that a contract for its completion will be arranged early in 1960.

Last year I recorded that seventy one properties were connected to the new Toftwood sewer within a few months of its completion. Following this initial rush the rate dropped considerably and it was therefore decided to give free connections to the curtilage of groups of properties. Ninety five such connections were made and a further 83 houses were connected making a total of 154. There are 221 houses to be put on the sewer.

Winter has tended to slow up the rate of connections but it is expected that by the end of the summer there will be few houses in the Toftwood area not connected to the sewer.

Free septic tank emptying has been discontinued.

The anticipated reduction in the cost of night soil collection was realised this year and the collection is now done by one operator instead of two.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A new 18 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle was acquired during the year. A weekly collection has been maintained.

The number of litter baskets in the town centre has been increased by one third, which has greatly assisted in keeping the town tidy. Routine street scavenging and street gully emptying was satisfactory.

SMOKE NUISANCE

It is gratifying to note there have been no complaints of smoke nuisance during the year, and I record my appreciation of the cooperation of industry in its elimination. 6,800 feet super of additional factory space was completed during the year.

CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the town. There is one approved caravan site with six standings. A number of caravans located in the gardens of private houses in the district are mainly occupied by relatives of the household.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

The following table summarises inspections during the year :-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>
Drainage	450	-	-
Factories, workshops & bakehouses	94	-	-
Slaughterhouses & butchers shops	250	-	-
Food shops	40	-	-
Cowsheds, dairies, etc.	10	-	-
Restaurants and Hotels	25	-	-
Verminous & filthy premises	-	-	-
Housing	59	11	9
Nuisances	30	-	-
Infectious diseases	-	-	-
Rats and mice	31	-	-
Refuse collection	10	-	-
Nightsoil	12	-	-
Water Supply	28	-	-

Four means of escape in case of fire certificates were issued during the year.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

No cases requiring disinfestation were reported.

MILK SUPPLY

Four dealers licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) Raw Milk Regulations, 1949.

Four dealers licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949.

Four dealers licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949.

ICE CREAM

Three new ice cream licences were issued during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION

Food premises in the district are well maintained and the standard of hygiene is good. Smoking by shop attendants has practically disappeared.

Thirteen condemnation certificates were issued during the year which includes :-

58 tins containing various types of food.
83 lbs of ham.

MEAT INSPECTION

The layout, lairage, slaughterhall and hanging accommodation at the present slaughter house does not comply, in any respect, with modern requirements. The general standard of cleanliness however is good, and the quality of the meat produced remains good.

A detailed report on the slaughter house with special reference to the implementation of the Slaughter House (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations Act, 1958, is being prepared for presentation early next year to the Council, who will no doubt decide on a future slaughtering policy for the district.

No case of *cysticercus bovis* was found this year.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
	588	3	846	1482

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

INSPECTED	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
	588	3	846	1482

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases in which some organ or part condemned	63	-	-	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.71%			0.27%

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-
Carcases in which some organ or part condemned	36	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	6.12%	33 $\frac{1}{3}\%$	-	-

AGRICULTURE ACT. 1956.

In discussion with the neighbouring Rural District Councils on the administration and interpretation of this Act, it was agreed that first priority be given to the provision of sanitary conveniences for agricultural workers at the homestead. Conveniences in the field were to be provided later; thus it was felt that a suggestion in the Act stating that the cost of compliance should be reasonable, was being satisfied, because the expenditure was spread over two years.

It is much to the credit of the farming community that in no case did they object to providing the facilities requested.

REPORT OF THE MANAGER, WATER DEPARTMENT

WATER SUPPLY

The average daily consumption was 178,551 gallons as compared with 173,910 gallons in the previous year, the average daily pumping hours being 18 hours, the same as last year. This increase in gallons pumped was due to the pump in No.1 Bore being lowered 20 feet when the reconditioned unit was installed during the Spring, 1959. The supply is derived from two deep bores, each 465 feet deep. No restrictions on its use took place during the year, although the demand greatly increased. Peak demand was reached 17th June 1959 when the daily consumption was 252,600 gallons. The average daily consumption for June 1959 was 208,148.

Total yearly consumption	65,171,500
The total yearly consumption from April 1959 to March 1960 was 1,696,300 over the preceeding year.	
1948/49 Total yearly consumption	54,381,800
1958/59 " "	63,475,200
1959/60 " "	65,171,500
Increase on previous year	1,696,300
Total yearly domestic water used	45,171,500
" industrial water used	20,000,000
Total number of metered supplies	150
Average daily consumption	178,551
Average gallons per head per day	18.7
Average daily gallons used by industry	54,794
Average daily pumping hours	18
Estimated total population supplied	6,600
Estimated total population not supplied	250
Number of houses supplied with Town water :-	
(a) Direct to houses	2,063
(b) By means of standpipe	169

Total estimated number of houses in Rural Area where mains not available. 60.

Total number of houses in Toftwood where mains are available but not connected (this is a decrease of 14 during the year) 19

NEW CONNECTIONS & MAINS EXTENSIONS

123 new connections and supplies have been added to the distribution system during the year. This is an increase of 75 on the preceding year. Plans have already been approved for 107 new dwellings on various sites in the town. This future development from the water supply position is very serious unless more storage and a new source of supply is obtained at the headworks. The drought last summer severely taxed our present source of supply which did eventually reach the maximum of 250,000 gallons per day.

650 yards of 3" asbestos cement main was installed on the George Borrow Estate. This completes main laying for the whole estate.

650 yards of 4" and 2" main has been installed for the future development of the Baxter Row and Littlefields area.

NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN

Bacteriological, 40, results in all cases "Highly Satisfactory".

Chemical, 1, the result of the chemical analysis is given as an appendix.

HEADCRIS

No additional plant or equipment has been added during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. Guild.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Cert. No. 127.L.
Lab. No. 9299/W.

9th November, 1959.

Sample received 30th September 1959 from East Dereham U.D.C.

Marked No.1 Bore, Waterworks.

Appearance when received Clear; small amount brown deposit.

Nature of Deposit Iron compounds.

Colour Nil Odour Nil

Reaction neutral pH 7.2 Taste Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	negligible trace	Hardness as CaCO ₃	
Albuminoid nitrogen	negligible trace	Total	265
Nitrate nitrogen	0.5	Carbonate (Temporary)	245
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	25
Chlorine as chlorides	30	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	245
Oxygen absorbed (4hr. 27°C.)	0.5	Free carbon dioxide	28
Sulphur as SO ₂	25	Total solids (at 180°C.)	355
Fluorine as F.	1.2	Iron (total)	0.13
Silica as SiO ₂	10	Metals in solution, other than iron	nil

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The total hardness approximates to 19° Clark, almost all of this being temporary. The reaction is slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and the free carbon dioxide is moderately low so that the water would not be expected to have any serious corrosive action on metals. Apart from a trace of iron other metals such as lead and copper are absent. The fluorine content is 1.2 parts per million which is unusually high for an East Anglian water. The optimum fluorine content of a drinking water is usually taken as 1 p.p.m. In our opinion the water is very suitable for drinking and general domestic use.

for Lincoln Sutton & Wood Ltd.

(signed) Eric C. Wood.

